

Attorney Docket No. 9-17-00000

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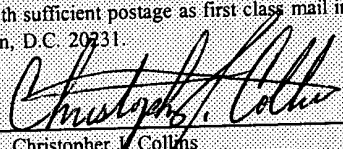
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE JAN 10 2002

In re Application of: Chiarello, *et al.*  
Serial No.: 09/344,226  
Filed: 06/25/99  
Entitled: Rhodamine-Based Fluorophores Useful As Labeling Agents

TECH CENTER 1600/2900  
Group No.: 1626  
Examiner: T. Solola

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED APRIL 23, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)(1)(i)(A)	
I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.	
Dated: <u>October 23, 2001</u>	By: <u></u> Christopher M. Collins

Sir or Madam:

Please enter the following on the record in response to the above cited Office Action.  
A petition for a three month extension of time is submitted herewith

A clean version of the rewritten, added, and/or cancelled claims with instructions for entry pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i) is included beginning on page two of this communication. A marked-up version of the rewritten, added, and/or cancelled claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii) is attached as Appendix I. A clean version of the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(3) as they should appear following entry of this amendment is attached as Appendix II.